

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2710
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
YEAR OF THE FARMERS
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to declare the year 2007 as `Year of the Farmers`;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some State Governments have made the same declaration;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the special steps taken by the Government to alleviate the problems being faced by the farmers in the country during this year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (d): Government has not received an information from State Governments regarding declaration of Year 2007 as `Year of the Farmers`. National Commission on Farmers has recommended in its Report that the agricultural year 2006-07 be designated as the Year of Agricultural Renewal or the Year of the Farmer. Steps recommended by the Commission for the year, inter-alia, include Soil Health Enhancement, Irrigation water supply augmentation through rainwater harvesting and recharge of aquifer, Credit and Insurance reforms. Technology upgradation and dissemination and Marketing opportunities.

(e): The revitalization of the agriculture sector, improvement in production and productivity and enhancement of income of the farmers are some of the major thrust areas identified by the Government for focused and concerted action. The initiatives taken by Government to alleviate the problems of the farmers, inter-alia, include a Credit Policy in the year 2004 to double the flow of credit to agriculture in next three years, reduction in interest rate on crop loan, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to agriculture, Community Grain Bank Scheme, Establishment of Central Integrated Pest Centres, Establishment of National Rainfed Area Authority, Reforms in marketing, National Horticulture Mission, Ground Water Recharge and Revamping agricultural extension etc.